

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

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FOL GENEVA 00094 SENT ACTION SECSTATE JAN 5, 1978 REPEATED TO
YOU QUOTE

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: ILO, MB, SZ

SUBJECT: US VACANCY ON ILO GOVERNING BODY

REF: STATE 311061

FROM AMBASSADOR VANDEN HEUVEL

1. I HAD AN EXTENDED DISCUSSION WITH DG BLANCHARD TODAY
REGARDING THE GOVERNING BODY (GB) SEAT VACATED BY US.
SEVERAL AMBASSADORS HAVE MET WITH DG IN RECENT WEEKS
QUESTIONING HIM AS TO HIS INTENDED PROCEDURE FOR FILLING
THE VACANCY. THE USSR AND MEXICAN REPRESENTATIVES ARE
AMONG THOSE WHO HAVE RAISED THIS QUESTION BUT BOTH HAVE
INDICATED SENSITIVITY TO THE DG'S ARGUMENT THAT IT WOULD
BE HARMFUL TO THE ILO TO RUSH IN FILLING THE VACANCY.
THE USSR REPRESENTATIVE MADE IT CLEAR TO THE DG THAT THE
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USSR WOULD DO NOTHING TO MAKE THE US RETURN TO THE ILO
MORE DIFFICULT ALTHOUGH HIS COUNTRY COULD NOT BE IN A
POSITION OF APPEARING TO PLEAD TWITH THE US TO RETURN.

2. I REVIEWED THE RELEVANT PRECEDENTS CITED IN REFTTEL
WITH THE DG. HE IS PREPARED TO TAKE THE LEADERSHIP IN
THE OFFICER'S MEETING TO FOLLOW THE SUGGESTED AGENDA. IT

WOULD MEAN THAT THERE WOULD BE NO REPORT REGARDING THE CHIEF INDUSTRIAL STATES FROM THE COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS UNTIL THE NOVEMBER 1978 GB SESSION. I AM LUNCHING WITH THE DG ON JANUARY 10 AND WILL REPORT AFTER THAT ON THE OUTCOME OF THE OFFICERQYS MEETING. I INTEND TO SPEAK TO PROFESSOR AGO LATER TODAY TO BE CERTAIN OF HIS UNDERSTANDING AND SUPPORT.

3. IN MY DISCUSSION WITH THE DG I ASKED WHETHER THERE WERE ANY DEVELOPMENTS REGARDING THE QUESTION OF THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES. HE SAID THAT HE HOPED TO MEET WITH THE ARAB AMBASSADORS AS SOON AS EGYPTIAN AMBASSADOR EL-SHAFEI RETURNED TO GENEVA, HOPEFULLY WITHIN THE NEXT TEN DAYS. PARENTHETICALLY, THE DG POINTED OUT THAT FORMER FOREIGN MINISTER FAHMI OF EGYPT HAS BEEN STAYING AT THE EL-SHAFEI RESIDENCE HERE FOR THE LAST TEN DAYS. THE DG CITED THIS AS EVIDENCE OF UNPREDICTABILITY AS TO WHAT ROLE EL-SHAFEI WILL PLAY IN RESOLVING THE PROBLEMS CAUSED BY THE 1974 RESOLUTION. THE DG INTENDS TO TELL THE ARAB AMBASSADORS IN UNEQUIVOCAL TERMS THAT THERE IS NO QUESTION OF SOVEREIGNTY INVOLVED IN INVOKING THE ILO COMPLIANCE MACHINERY IN THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES. FURTHER, HE INTENDS TO ATTEND PERSONALLY A MEETING OF THE ARAB LABOR MINISTERS SCHEDULED FOR MARCH 5 IN KHARTOUM WHERE HE WOULD MAKE A FURTHER FORMAL PRESENTATION OF THIS LEGAL CONCLUSION REGARDING SOVEREIGNTY. THE COMMITTEE OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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EXPERTS WILL MEET ON MARCH 9 AND THE LANGUAGE IS NOW BEING DRAFTED MAKING CLEAR THAT THERE IS NO LINK BETWEEN TERRITORIAL SOVEREIGNTY AND THE APPLICATION OF CONVENTIONS. THE DG HOPES BY THE END OF MARCH, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE ARAB COUNTRIES AND ISRAEL, TO SEND A TEAM TO THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES WHICH WOULD ENABLE HIM TO MAKE AN ACCEPTABLE REPORT ON THE 1978 CONFERENCE.

4. THE DG IS UNAWARE OF THE EFFORTS BEING MADE IN WASHINGTON AND CAIRO REGARDING THESE QUESTIONS. I WOULD APPRECIATE GUIDANCE ON WHAT I MIGHT TELL HIM SO THAT HIS OWN INITIATIVES WILL REMAIN CONSONANT WITH OUR EFFORTS. VANDEN HEUVEL UNQUOTE VANCE

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